



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ORIOLE (MHC 55)  
FPO AA 34092-1954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757

Ser 00/058

03 Apr 06

From: Commanding Officer, USS ORIOLE (MHC 55)  
To: Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, and  
Washington, D.C.

Subj: USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) 2005 COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12J

Encl: (1) USS ORIOLE Command History  
(2) LCDR Robert S. Smith, Commanding Officer,  
Biography

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

/s/

R. S. SMITH

## USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) COMMAND HISTORY

### 1. Command Data

**Name of Command:** USS ORIOLE (MHC 55)

**Unit Identification Code (UIC):** 21936

**Name and Rank of Commanding Officer:**

**Last:** Smith      **First:** Robert      **M.I.:** S      **Rank:** LCDR

**Date Assumed Command:** 2005-08-29

**Mission / Command Employment / Area of Operations:**

**Mission:** Mine Countermeasure Operations at sea

**Area of Operations:** Gulf of Mexico

**Permanent Location:** Naval Station Ingleside, Ingleside, TX

**Immediate Superior in Command:**

**Operational:** Commander, Mine Countermeasure Squadron Two

**Administrative:** Commander, Mine Countermeasure Squadron Two

**Task Force / Group / Unit name:** Not Applicable

**Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned under operational control:** Not Applicable

**Number of Personnel Assigned:**

**Officers:** 8      **Enlisted:** 38      **Civilians:** 0

**Command Point of Contact:**

LT Mark S. Gerald

Assistant Navigator

[mgerald@oriole.navy.mil](mailto:mgerald@oriole.navy.mil)

361-776-5609 (Quarterdeck)

DSN:776-5609

USS ORIOLE (MHC 55)

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### 2. Commander's Assessment

In 2005, ORIOLE continued to maintain a high state of readiness to be a surgeable, ready asset in the Global War on Terror (GWOT). The first half of the year was spent training MHC CREW CONQUEST in preparation for an Arabian Gulf Deployment at the end of the year, as a part of the Crew Swap program that the Mine Warfare Community is now executing. Upon the embarkation of MHC CREW INFLICT in August, ORIOLE was given some much needed attention to improve her overall material condition. Although never called upon, ORIOLE was consistently named as the "ready back-up" ship for several evolutions conducted by other MIW ships. Even though slated for decommissioning in March 2006, ORIOLE maintained a ready for sea condition and never quit asking to participate in operations, exercises and evolutions.

### **3. Chronology and Narrative**

#### **A. Chronology**

##### Legend:

ICS: Integrated Combat Systems  
TSTA: Tailored Ship's Training Assist  
LTT: Limited Team Trainer  
CCOA: Corpus Christi Operating Area  
CMAV: Continuous Maintenance Availability  
CSOSS: Combat Systems Operating Sequencing System  
MIW: Mine Warfare  
FEP: Final Evaluation Problem  
RONEX: Squadron Exercise  
GOMEX: Gulf of Mexico Exercise  
PCOA: Panama City Operating Area  
HMER: Hull, Mechanical and Electrical Readiness Assist  
POM: Preparation for Overseas Movement  
DEI: Diesel Engine Inspection

##### **January**

01-03      Holiday Leave and Stand down  
03-07      ICS TSTA 3  
10-14      ICS TSTA 9  
24          Underway CCOA (Engineering LTT)  
27-28      Underway CCOA (Engineering LTT)

##### **February**

03-04      Fast Cruise (Engineering LTT)  
08-11      Fast Cruise (Engineering LTT)  
14-15      Underwater Hull Cleaning  
21-25      Engineering TSTA

##### **March**

08          Underway CCOA (Underway Demonstration)  
09-11      Underway CCOA (ICS TSTA)  
21-25      Underway CCOA (ICS TSTA)  
29-30      Underway CCOA (CO's Time)

##### **April**

04-22      CMAV  
11-12      Systems Calibration  
15-16      Underwater Hull Cleaning  
18-20      CSOSS Validation  
21-22      MIW Certification  
26-30      Underway (FEP Preparation)

##### **May**

02-06      Underway CCOA (FEP)

09-17 Underway CCOA (RONEX)  
22-27 WPA Pensacola Operating Area  
28-31 Inport Panama City, FL

**June**

01 Inport Panama City, FL  
02-12 Underway PCOA (GOMEX)  
13-14 Inport Pensacola, FL  
15-17 Underway PCOA (GOMEX Part 2)  
20-30 CMAV  
20-24 HMER 1  
26-30 POM

**July**

01-23 POM  
01-22 CMAV  
25-29 Crew Swap 05-03  
29 MHC CREW FORCE assumes duties as caretaker crew  
29-31 Maintenance/Upkeep

**August**

01-28 Maintenance/Upkeep  
29 Crew Swap  
MHC CREW INFLICT assumes the hull  
30-31 Post-deployment stand down

**September**

01-30 Maintenance/Upkeep  
01-29 Post-deployment stand down  
19-25 Hurricane Moor  
30 Inport Ingleside, TX

**October**

01-31 Maintenance/Upkeep  
03-07 CMAV  
24-31 CMAV  
24-31 DEI

**November**

01-30 Maintenance/Upkeep  
17-23 3M Baseline Inspection  
30 SAR LTT #1

**December**

01-31 Maintenance/Upkeep  
05 SAR LTT #2  
12 SAR LTT #3  
16-31 Holiday Leave and Stand down

## **B. Narrative**

In 2005, USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) has been a valuable asset for MCM forces in warfighting readiness, battle force reliability, innovative and comprehensive training and crewmember quality of life improvement initiatives. She has consistently defined combat excellence among other ships onboard Naval Station Ingleside, TX.

ORIOLE's crew morale has been among the highest on the South Texas waterfront, which is demonstrated by maintaining the ability to fly the Gold and Silver Warfare Excellence Pennants.

ORIOLE successfully participated in two major exercises during 2005 (RONEX-2005, GOMEX-2005). During RONEX-2005, ORIOLE flawlessly functioned as the CTU throughout the entire exercise, a role that had not been undertaken by ORIOLE in over two years. GOMEX 05, ORIOLE proved her proficiency by having the most on-station time of the squadron MHCs.

ORIOLE's Engineering Department personnel have transitioned from an allotment of Sailors achieving little more than the minimum standard, to a cohesive unit, which has well exceeded expectations on the waterfront. After multiple Limited Team Trainers (LTT) with Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI), ORIOLE completed a successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA). From there, ORIOLE completed her Initial Assessment (IA), earning excellent marks from Afloat Training Group Atlantic (N43), in regards to watchstander's enthusiasm and an overall pride in their spaces. ORIOLE continued to build on the lessons learned and earned their qualification at the Underway Demonstration (UD). Once again, N43 took special note of the watch teams, well coordinated, highly effective casualty response ability and was impressed by their aggressive desire to go above and beyond. Furthermore, ORIOLE successfully completed her FEP, performing her first successful underway Detect-to-Engage sequence in two years.

ORIOLE was one of many ships to participate in Crew Swap beginning in July when MHC CREW CONQUEST departed for Bahrain, leaving MHC CREW FORCE in charge of caretaker duties. MHC CREW INFLICT arrived 29 August to assume command of the hull.

ORIOLE's awards for this demanding year include:  
Maritime Warfare Excellence Award, Command, Control,  
Communications and Information Warfare Excellence Award,  
Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award for IA and IDTC,  
and Supply Management Excellence Award for increased  
efficiency and reliability of logistics. Through it all,  
2005 was an eventful and productive year for ORIOLE.

**4. Supporting Reports**

None

**5. Published Documents**

None

**6. Photographs**

None